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AUTHORITY

AGO ltr 29 Apr 1980

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310

IN REPLY REFER TO

AGAM-P (M) (16 Oct 68) FOR OT RD 683146

18 October 1968

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 43d
Signal Battalion (SPT), Period Ending 31 July 1968

SEE DISTRIBUTION

1. Subject report is forwarded for review and evaluation in accordance with paragraph 5b, AR 525-15. Evaluations and corrective actions should be reported to ACSFOR OT RD, Operational Reports Branch, within 90 days of receipt of covering letter.
2. Information contained in this report is provided to insure that the Army realizes current benefits from lessons learned during recent operations.
3. To insure that the information provided through the Lessons Learned Program is readily available on a continuous basis, a cumulative Lessons Learned Index containing alphabetical listings of items appearing in the reports is compiled and distributed periodically. Recipients of the attached report are encouraged to recommend items from it for inclusion in the Index by completing and returning the self-addressed form provided at the end of this report.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

Kenneth G. Wickham

KENNETH G. WICKHAM
Major General, USA
The Adjutant General

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 43D SIGNAL BATTALION (SUPPORT)
APO US Forces 96318

SCCPV-NG-PK-C

12 August 1968

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 43d Signal Battalion (SPT) for Period
Ending 31 July 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

Commanding Officer
21st Signal Group
ATTN: SCCPV-NG-OPT
APO 96240

Reference: 1st Signal Brigade Reg 1-19, dated 12 July 1968, Subject:
Operational Report-Lessons Learned (RCS CSFOR-65) (R1)

1. Section 1, Operations: Significant Activities

a. General:

(1) The battalion was operational in the Republic of Vietnam for the entire reporting period of 92 days. Major effort was expended in the following areas: improving the quality of installed communications; raising the level of personnel proficiency through OJT and self-instructional programs; raising the standards of all categories of equipment maintenance to include vehicles, power generators, and signal equipment; and improving the living and recreational facilities for assigned personnel.

(2) On 8 July 1968 LTC Leo F. DuBeau departed this unit with command reverting to MAJ Edward S. Raleigh, the previous Executive Officer. LTC Myron M. Motsko arrived and assumed command of the 43d Signal Battalion (SPT) on 1 August 1968.

(3) The 43d Signal Battalion (SPT) was originally conceived and designed to provide communications support to advisors in the II Corps Tactical Zone. All of its elements were formed under TOE 11-500D tailored to the specific mission conceived for the unit. Subsequently, the battalion's mission was changed to that of providing area communications support for US Army organizations within four and one-half provinces. The original TOE does not fit the current mission. As a result, several original companies (B, D, and E) have been detached and other attached (278th and 586th Signal Companies). Additionally, the internal organization

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of the remaining units has been rearranged to best match resources to requirements. An extensive modification to the existing TOE has been submitted through 21st Signal Group and forwarded to 1st Signal Brigade. This change is intended to suit the organization to its long-term mission as now known.

b. Organization: The following listing provides up-to-date information for organic units of the 43d Signal Battalion. Inclosures 1 thru 5 provide additional information for attached units and units under the operational control of the 43d Signal Battalion.

| <u>UNIT</u> | <u>LOCATION</u> | <u>MTOE</u> | <u>USASCC</u> | <u>UIC</u> |
|------------------|-----------------|-------------|---------------|------------|
| HHD, 43d Sig Bn | PKU | 11-500D | 24/67 | WDQZTO |
| Co A, 43d Sig Bn | PKU | 11-500D | 25/67 | WDQZAO |
| Co C, 43d Sig Bn | KTM | 11-500D | 27-67 | WDQZCO |
| 278th Sig Co | PUS | 11-117D | 02/67 | WCFJTO |
| 586th Sig Co | AKE | 11-117D | 04/67 | WCF6TO |

c. Activities:

(1) The 43d Signal Battalion (SPT) headquarters and assigned units underwent an Annual General Inspection by a nine-member team from the 1st Signal Brigade. The inspection was conducted during the period 22 to 26 July 1968. The AGI's assessment of the battalion's strengths and weaknesses provided the command and staff with an accurate appraisal of this unit's mission accomplishment and provided a basis for further and more effective development of battalion resources.

(2) Brigadier General William M. Van Harlingen, Commanding General, 1st Signal Brigade; Brigadier General Robert D. Torry, Commanding General, USASTRATCOM-PAC; COL Daniel W. McElwoo, Commanding Officer, 21st Signal Group; and COL Clinton F. Matthews, Deputy Commander, 1st Signal Brigade visited a variety of units and isolated sites of the battalion during the reporting period.

d. Personnel and Administration:

(1) During this reporting period there were 209 assigned gains and 228 assigned losses for a net decrease of 19 personnel. The present authorization for this battalion is 1135 personnel. The assigned strength of this

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 32 | 33 | 34 | 35 | 36 | 37 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 41 | 42 | 43 | 44 | 45 | 46 | 47 | 48 | 49 | 50 | 51 | 52 | 53 | 54 | 55 | 56 | 57 | 58 | 59 | 60 | 61 | 62 | 63 | 64 | 65 | 66 | 67 | 68 | 69 | 70 | 71 | 72 | 73 | 74 | 75 | 76 | 77 | 78 | 79 | 80 | 81 | 82 | 83 | 84 | 85 | 86 | 87 | 88 | 89 | 90 | 91 | 92 | 93 | 94 | 95 | 96 | 97 | 98 | 99 | 100 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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organization as of 31 July 1968 was 952 personnel or 83.7 percent of authorized strength.

(2) The following are personnel shortages which critically affect the accomplishment of this organization's mission.

| <u>NUMBER SHORT</u> | <u>MOS</u> | <u>TITLE</u> |
|---------------------|------------|-----------------------------------|
| 17 | 52A10 | Powerman |
| 15 | 52B20 | Power Generator/Operator Mechanic |
| 11 | 63A10 | Wheel Vehicle Repair Apprentice |
| 13 | 72B20 | Comm Center Specialist |
| 70 | 72C20 | Telephone Switchboard Operator |
| 4 | 94A10 | Food Service Apprentice |
| 5 | 94B20 | Cook |

(3) During this reporting period an MTOE was received for Company C which brought the authorized strength a little more into line with mission requirement. At present we are awaiting approval on the MTOE for the remaining companies of this battalion.

(4) There were nine Bronze Stars and twelve Army Commendation Medals awarded to personnel of this battalion during the reporting period. Forty-four recommendations for awards have been forwarded to higher headquarters and remain pending approval.

(5) Assignment of Senior Grade personnel to positions within the battalion has been satisfactory during this reporting period; however, non-receipt of assignment instructions for departing personnel continues to be a personnel problem.

e. Security:

(1) 586th Signal Company completed construction of the Dial Central Office revetment at An Khe. The revetment is made of steel planking approximately four feet thick and ten feet high, filled with dirt. The completion of the revetment increases the protection offered to both personnel and equipment in the event of a rocket or mortar attack. Sufficient protection is afforded personnel to allow them to continue operations during periods of red alert.

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(2) Company C at Kontum enclosed all ladders leading to guard towers. The concealment thus offered permits personnel to have access to towers and at the same time obscures vision of activities by the enemy.

(3) 278th Signal Company at Camp Enari participated in a search and clear operation organized by the 4th Infantry Division on 20 July 1968. Operational "Clean Sweep 1" involved approximately 7,000 personnel from the 4th Infantry Division and tenant units of Camp Enari. Eighty-three (83) men of the 278th Signal Company acted as a reserve force for elements of the 124th Signal Battalion.

(4) HHD, 43d Sig Bn (SPT) has been given the responsibility for an additional 800 feet of the MACV Compound perimeter. The additional area gives HHD a total perimeter responsibility of 1,200 feet. An inspection and evaluation of the new defensive perimeter was made in order to comply with 1st Signal Brigade letter dated 24 May 1968, Subject: Defense Posture of Signal Installations. To date five (5) bunkers have been obtained from local engineer units and installed along the new perimeter. Fifty (50) percent of the sandbagging has been completed. The estimated completion date for this project, which will also include access trenches and ultimately secondary fighting positions, is mid-September.

(5) During the quarterly period ending 31 July 1968, there were numerous rocket, mortar and small arms attacks.

(a) Locations affected:

1. Bn HQ's and Co A, MACV, PKU, RVN on 5 May and 5 Jun 68
2. Detachment 1, Co A, PKN, RVN on 2 Jul 68
3. Detachment 2, Co A, CPH, RVN on 6 and 8 Jun 68
4. Detachment 3, Co A, DTO, RVN on 6, 8, 17 May, 8 Jun, and 26 Jul 68
5. Detachment 1, Co C, CRO, RVN on 5, 9, 15, 24, 25 May, 1, 4 Jun and 1 Jul 68
6. Detachment 6, Co C, BMT, RVN on 5, 6, 7, 15, 25, 26 May, 3, 4 Jun and 9 Jul 68
7. 278th Sig Co, 43d Sig Bn, PUS, RVN on 5, 15 May 68
8. 586th Sig Co, 43d Sig Bn, AKE, RVN on 10 May and 17 Jun 68

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(b) Personnel WIA and KIA:

1. BHD at Pleiku--1 KIA as a result of an enemy attack directed toward a convoy between cities of Pleiku and Kontum on 5 May 68

2. Co A at Pleiku--None

3. Co C at Kontum--2 KIA as a result of an enemy attack directed toward a convoy between cities of Pleiku and Kontum on 5 May 68

4. 278th Sig Co at Camp Enari--None

5. 586th Sig Co at An Khe--None

(c) Equipment Damaged:

1. BHD--1 each 2½ ton truck as a result of an enemy attack directed toward a convoy between cities of Pleiku and Kontum on 5 May 68

2. Co A--None

3. Co C--1 each 2½ ton truck as a result of an enemy attack directed toward a convoy between cities of Pleiku and Kontum on 5 May 68

4. 278th Sig Co--None

5. 586th Sig Co--None

f. Safety:

(1) Command emphasis on safe working conditions and habits continues down to the lowest level in all operational areas of this organization.

(2) Safe driving practices are continually emphasized in Command Information and through the various news media available to the Safety Officer. The Battalion Safety Patrol has continued to enforce safe driving in the areas most heavily traveled by vehicles of this organization and to cite unsafe acts or practices observed by the patrol. This patrol is conducted on an unannounced schedule at least four days a week in three cities near which units of this organization are assigned.

(3) In addition to the overall safety program has been the daily showing of safety films. These films are obtained through the 221st Signal Company (Photo) Detachment attached to the 586 Signal Company in An Khe. The safety films are shown nightly prior to the commercial films obtained through Special Services channels for troop entertainment.

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g. Training:

(1) The Battalion Training Section has persevered in maintaining high standards in all facets of training. During the reporting period a lesson plan for the OSC course was edited and is currently being finalized for distribution to subordinate units. A series of tests on the 72B MOS have been reproduced; these included a block of instruction on JAMP 126 or AUTODIN message format and general information on the MOS itself. Monthly inspection trips continue to be held with a minimum of one company being visited each week. The companies have the STRATOOM Form 115 posted as of the last mandatory training class. The functional guide packets, as a result of continual supervision by the battalion training section, are gradually meeting requirements outlined in SCOPV 350-3, Appendix VI. Regular distribution has been established with Fort Huachuca, Arizona for receipt of STRATOOM Form 115, which companies previously were stenciling.

(2) Enthusiasm was shown by all elements of the command for the use of 1st Signal Brigade Signal School by maximum utilization of quotas for courses offered. A total of eight courses were utilized with 25 personnel attending. Personnel in the numbers indicated completed the following courses:

| <u>COURSE</u> | <u>NUMBER</u> |
|--|---------------|
| AN/TRC-110/117 | 5 |
| AN/TRC-24, AN/CRC-50 | 2 |
| 16mm Projectionist | 5 |
| Cable Splicer | 3 |
| TTY Circuit Restoration | 4 |
| Test Fac Cont and Ckt Restoration Course | 2 |
| PCM Operators Course | 2 |
| PCM Maintenance Course | <u>2</u> |
| Total | 25 |

(3) Standardized formal OJT programs in the MOS's 31M, 72B, and 720 continued to be utilized by all companies and sites. The production of formal OJT programs at battalion level has insured continuity of courses

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throughout the battalion as well as releasing subordinate units from a duplication of effort. Remaining in this field is the testing of individuals. This testing will occur during inspection tours by members of the battalion staff.

(4) Battalion training has increased its coverage of training topics through use of the battalion's monthly newspaper. A short definition and explanation of these topics are written in a light vein to create interest among battalion personnel.

h. Operations:

(1) The 815th Engr Bn has been tasked with the construction of the new Dial Central Office building at Camp Enari. The building is presently 89 percent complete and estimated completion date is mid-August. The DCO will provide 4th Infantry Division Base Camp Enari with dial service and access into the long distance system. Trunks will be available into the tandem switching system giving subscribers direct dial long distance service. The 278th Signal Company, 43d Signal Battalion will have operational responsibility for the 1000-line DCO.

(2) One manual telephone exchange was deactivated during the reporting period. Camp Holloway switchboard, AN/TTC-7, was deactivated on 16 June 1968 as a result of the increased coverage and installation of dial service to that area by the US Air Force DCO at Pleiku. An SB-86 switchboard was installed by the 52d Aviation Battalion in order to facilitate inter-battalion and perimeter communications. The SB-86 is owned, operated and maintained by 52d Aviation Battalion. The AN/TTC-7 recovered from Camp Holloway was transported to Kontum where it replaced two SB-86's, thereby providing the Kontum area with a more efficient communications system. After rehabilitation by ELM personnel, one of the SB-86's from Kontum was transferred to Choc Rgo to replace three stacked SB-22's, thus upgrading telephone communication service in that area.

(3) On 15 June 1968, the 43d Signal Battalion Army Area Communications Operations Center (LACOC) relocated within a new facility. This new facility was designed and constructed along lines based on past experience, thereby contributing to a more efficient and better organized traffic flow, division of activities and responsibilities, and control by supervisory personnel.

(4) The installation of a new AB-216 tower at Kontum (Company C) was completed on 29 June 1968. The existing AB-216 tower was relocated and extended eight sections to the height of 114 feet. On 1 July 1968, the antennas for the 77UH73 and BBH24 systems between Kontum and Pleiku were reinstalled on the new tower. The result has been an improvement

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in the quality of both systems by 30 percent, thereby improving greatly the subscriber service between Kontum and Pleiku.

(5) Three new systems were activated during the reporting period to provide back-up communications for isolated signal sites in the battalion. The EBI6A system provides back-up for the BBH45 system between Dak To and Pleiku. The BBH1B system between An Khe and Cheo Reo provides back-up for the 77UH87 system between Pleiku and Cheo Reo. The BBH2B system provides back-up between Ban Me Thuot and Ban Me Thuot East. These systems are not only serving as back-up but have also been used to provide additional communications paths to meet increased subscriber requirements during the quarter.

(6) The 77UT14 system between Pleiku and Vung Chua Mountain, the 77UH1A system between Pleiku and An Khe, the BBTO9 system between An Khe and Vung Chua Mountain, and the BBH88 system between Pleiku and An Khe were all deactivated during the quarter. The circuits previously installed over these systems were rerouted over IWCS facilities to provide greatly improved circuit quality for the subscribers involved.

(7) During the months of June and July, six systems were out over from the SB-675 to the AN/MSQ-73 at the Pleiku Army Technical Control Facility. This outover was accomplished with a minimum of difficulty and with no loss of service to subscribers. The outover to the AN/MSQ-73 will provide a much greater capability for controlling, troubleshooting, and conditioning of circuitry than the SB-675.

(8) During the quarter, there was a total of twenty-two (22) circuits deactivated and seventy-two (72) circuits activated. Twenty-three (23) of the circuit activations were in support of 4th Infantry Division combat operations.

(9) During the months of June and July, an AN/TRC-129A system with its associated antennas was installed between Ban Me Thuot and Lang Bion Mountain. The system was on the air by 30 July 1968. This tactical tropo system is to receive a DCA-SAM system designator and channelization upon completion of a DCA quality and assurance inspection. This system will replace the 77UH88, 77UH89, and 77UH86 systems between Ban Me Thuot and Lang Bion Mountain which are marginal systems. The new tropo system will provide much better quality for the subscribers serviced.

(10) Circuit Activations or Changes of Special Note:

(a) During the month of July, teletype circuit A1029B between Pleiku AACC Minor Relay and Cheo Reo was changed from half duplex to full duplex

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operation. The conversion to full duplex enabled the Pleiku AACC Minor Relay to achieve a position of full duplex for all circuits. In addition to achieving faster and easier operation the capability also allowed the Pleiku AACC Minor Relay to standardize procedures across the board.

(b) A 60-wpm full-duplex teletype circuit (A1837B) was activated on 25 May 1968 between Pleiku Army Area Communications Center and the 4th Infantry Division. This circuit was activated in order to assist with the overload for circuit KZ23. A sharp decrease in handling time was immediately noted along with a marked improvement in the quality of messages processed and reduction in service action.

(11) On 4 July 1968 the II Corps Operations and Intelligence RTT Net was deactivated and placed on an on-call status. II Corps Headquarters now utilizes the common-user teletype system for electrical transmissions. The capability for rapid activation of the O&I Net has been retained should enemy activity increase to a point requiring a special RTT Net for II Corps Headquarters.

i. Logistics: Company C is responsible for resupply of its three sites. Lack of adequate transportation delays resupply to isolated sites such as Cheo Reo. The overall efficiency of Company C is sometimes hampered by these delays. An effective, reliable means of delivery is required. A periodic helicopter run is now utilized to insure delivery of supplies, equipment and distribution; however, organic aviation for this battalion would be of utmost benefit.

j. Aviation: This battalion is authorized an aviation section by TOE; however, neither aircraft nor aviation personnel are assigned. Support is obtained from the 41st Signal Battalion at Qui Nhon which is approximately 100 km distant and the 21st Signal Group at Nha Trang, approximately 200 km away. The air support provided by these two organizations marginally meets the minimum requirements of this battalion. Scheduled Air Force and Army flights are utilized whenever possible in an attempt to satisfy the needs for air transportation. Only through the use of its own organic aviation support will this battalion be able to cover adequately its large area of responsibility.

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2. Section 2, Lessons Learned: Commander's Observations, Evaluations
and Recommendations:

a. Personnel:

(1) Need for Additional Clerical Personnel:

(a) OBSERVATION: The varied and ever increasing functions of the Battalion Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment requires additional personnel to perform the mission.

(b) EVALUATION: With increasing requirements for paperwork and reports, more administrative and clerical personnel are needed. Unmentioned functions in the TO&E, i. e., civilian personnel management and supervision, require additional clerical personnel.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: Additional clerical slots should be authorized to provide personnel for the additional functions. An MTOE will be submitted requesting these additional slots.

(2) Proposed MTOE for AN/MSQ-73:

(a) OBSERVATION: The proposed MTOE does not provide sufficient personnel to operate efficiently a fixed station Tech Control Center as required by the existing mission.

(b) EVALUATION: The proposed MTOE calls for Tactical Tech Controllers (31N20) and Telephone Linemen (36C20).

(c) RECOMMENDATION: That a new MTOE be submitted eliminating Tactical Tech Controllers and Telephone Linemen. The proposal will request the following:

| <u>TITLE</u> | <u>NDS</u> | <u>GRADE</u> | <u>NUMBER</u> |
|--------------------------|------------|--------------|---------------|
| Chief Tech Controller | 32D40 | E-7 | 1 |
| Asst Chief Controller | 32D40 | E-6 | 1 |
| Tech Controller | 32D40 | E-5 | 3 |
| Fixed Station Controller | 32D20 | E-4 | 12 |

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b. Operations:

(1) Ohm Ground at DCO:

(a) OBSERVATION: The DCO at An Khe was unable to reduce the ohm ground to the required reading after the original ground had been applied.

(b) EVALUATION: The grounding of equipment in the An Khe area was very hard to establish. The area is rocky and ground rods are ruined before they are imbedded deep enough to effect a suitable ground.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: Eight to ten copper ground rods were dug into the ground at a depth of approximately four feet. Copper wiring was wrapped around all ground rods and then welded together for a better contact. This action has been proven satisfactory in reducing the ohm ground at the DCO at An Khe.

(2) Trouble Shooting Circuits on the Patch Panel within the Communications Center:

(a) OBSERVATION: Trouble shooting of circuits on the patch panel that was installed in the Comm Center has created a problem at the An Khe Communications Center.

(b) EVALUATION: During periods of circuit outage due to the patch panel the maintenance personnel have had to trouble shoot on a "trial and error" basis. When the patch panel was originally installed, no diagram was made to simplify trouble shooting.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: A wiring diagram should be prepared and placed within all Comm Centers for reference purposes.

(3) Grounding on Elevated Signal Sites:

(a) OBSERVATION: Extreme difficulties have arisen due to the rocky terrain and inability to place ground rods in the ground.

(b) EVALUATION: Normal methods of ground cannot be implemented to insure an effective ground.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: Place a 1/0 bare ground cable approximately one foot under ground around the area. Physically connect all buildings, antennas and equipment to the cable. This cable is then run down the hillside on a one-inch cable to a ground. This ground consists of a hole filled with charcoal and rock salt and a spiral made of plating and cable. This

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type of ground has proved effective on the Hon Cong signal site where the terrain is too rocky to utilize ground stakes.

(4) AN/GRC-50 Reflected Power Reading:

(a) OBSERVATION: In some cases much time has been expended in trouble shooting the AN/GRC-50 in order to correct high reflected power readings.

(b) EVALUATION: After thorough trouble shooting it was found that the outside coaxial cable connector was loose and exposed, creating a high reading.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: A short strip of electrical tape wrapped around the cable and connector will reduce the strain on the cable and lower the reflected power reading.

c. Training:

(1) School Allocations for AN/MSQ-73:

(a) OBSERVATION: Only three school-trained fixed station technical controllers are assigned. Personnel presently being utilized are Radio Relay attendants, Tactical Tech Controllers, and Radio Repairmen.

(b) EVALUATION: A critical shortage of fixed station technical controllers exists. Personnel assigned require extensive training on the AN/MSQ-73 equipment. Mission requirements and lack of training equipment preclude extensive classes at the operational level.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: That additional school allocations be made available from 1st Signal Brigade to give formal training to all personnel assigned.

(2) DC Restoration Course:

(a) OBSERVATION: Personnel returning from the 1st Signal Brigade DC Restoration Course are lacking in DC restoration knowledge.

(b) EVALUATION: Personnel returning from the 1st Signal Brigade DC Restoration Course are adequately trained in the installation of line isolation relays; however, they display a distinct lack of understanding of DC isolation procedures and use of test equipment. It is felt from interviews with returning students that inoperative test equipment and a lack of practical exercises with outside transmitting equipment, results

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in little knowledge along the lines of DC restoration line isolation relays. The course seems adequate for DC circuit activation but inadequate when combined with trouble shooting procedures.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: That a re-evaluation of the school curriculum be conducted to determine if restoration procedures are receiving adequate hours of instruction. That emphasis be placed on insuring test equipment is operative for instruction and practical exercises. That outside transmitting equipment be used in practical exercises of circuit restoration. A hypothetical long haul situation should be included in the instruction.

(3) Training for Mode V:

(a) OBSERVATION: With the introduction of the Mode V operation, radical changes in normal communication center operations are anticipated. Personnel assigned to the communications center require familiarization and training on JANAP 128 procedures. During normal operations it is increasingly difficult to conduct proper OJT and produce satisfactory results.

(b) EVALUATION: All personnel assigned primary duties in the communications center require formal classes on the procedures employed under JANAP 128.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: That training aids be procured or fabricated on the unit level. That qualified instructors from the battalion level conduct formal training for newly assigned personnel along with personnel currently assigned to the unit.

d. Intelligence:

(1) Detonation of Explosives by Fire:

(a) OBSERVATION: Many areas have been enveloped by extensive foliage. It has been observed that in perimeter areas around signal sites, with the density being so great, it is relatively difficult to observe explosives which were previously installed.

(b) EVALUATION: Accidental detonation of explosives is a safety hazard.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: A check should be made of any area to be burned for explosives or any other type of material that may cause bodily harm.

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Flak jacket and helmet should be worn by all personnel employed in such clearing operations. Constant attention must be given to perimeters to prevent overgrowth from reaching the point where burning is required.

e. Logistics:

(1) Turn-in of Excess Equipment:

(a) OBSERVATION: There has been an extreme difficulty encountered in turn-in of excess serviceable equipment.

(b) EVALUATION: Depot requires packing of small items and equipment.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: Priority should be given to use of proper "timotablos" in the process of turn-in so that packing material may be obtained from local engineers and/or PA&E.

(2) Tire Shortages:

(a) OBSERVATION: There has been a tire and inner tube shortage for 2½ ton trucks.

(b) EVALUATION: Non-receipt of tires and tubes placed on requisition has resulted in a shortage of replacement tires for vehicles.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: Worn tires on trucks may be replaced with tires from corresponding trailers. The worn tires may then be used on trailers. Even though the worn tires are not sufficient for the trucks, they will suffice in an emergency situation for the trailers. Constant AFL action is required to insure requisitions on record are valid.

(3) Repair and Return of Defective Modules:

(a) OBSERVATION: The established system of repair and return of defective modules for the AN/MSQ-73 appears to be inadequate to provide rapid return of repaired modules.

(b) EVALUATION: The existing policy for repair and return of defective modules does not provide the required service. The closest turn-in point for printed circuit boards and defective modules is Co B, 41st Sig Bn at Qui Nhon. This requires transporting defective modules to Qui Nhon, a distance of four hours by convoy. The DS at Qui Nhon packages and mails defective items to Sacramento Army Depot for repair. Modules recently sent to Qui Nhon were not sent to SAAD but returned to the unit unrepared. Due to the distance involved it is not economical

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to turn in modules as they become defective. Therefore, an accumulation of defective modules results before turn-in.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: That a DS in the Pleiku area be designated to ship defective modules to SALD, or that the using unit be permitted to ship direct to SALD following established procedures for packaging and documentation.

(4) Test Equipment for AN/MSQ-73:

(a) OBSERVATION: Inoperative test equipment for the AN/MSQ-73 restricts mission performance.

(b) EVALUATION: Proper tests and isolation of troubles cannot be accomplished without adequate test equipment. Of particular concern is DC restoration. One item of test equipment has been in maintenance over 100 days. The AN/FCC-69 was turned-in for repair but returned because the power connections were not turned-in with the equipment. Power input connections are hard wired into the AN/MSQ-73 van and would require trained personnel for disconnection and re-installation. The nearest repair facility is the 554th IEM Co, Qui Nhon. Sensitive test equipment must be transported an excessive distance, negating calibration efforts.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: A survey is presently being conducted of all test equipment requiring repair. It is recommended that test equipment be calibrated and repaired in the Pleiku area. On-site assistance would preclude disassembly of power input connections in addition to transporting equipment to and from Qui Nhon.

(5) Back-up Equipment--Remote Sites:

(a) OBSERVATION: Detachment 3 of Company C, 43d Signal Battalion, Cheo Reo, repeatedly encountered difficulty in maintaining communications back-up equipment. The site maintains the required quantities of back-up for its committed equipment. When back-up equipment must be used on line the time involved in repairing the deadlined equipment is too great due to lack of adequate transportation. While waiting for this deadlined equipment, the site lacks required back-up equipment.

(b) EVALUATION: Separate sites lacking regular, reliable transportation to and from support maintenance are very vulnerable to outage time while deadlined equipment is being repaired.

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(c) RECOMMENDATION: That quantities of back-up equipment be increased at sites where reliable transportation to support maintenance is not available.

(6) Company PLL:

(a) OBSERVATION: Company C maintains three sites at distances which prevent effective utilization of the company PLL located at Kontum.

(b) EVALUATION: More effective distribution of company PLL must be made.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: That an adequate stockage of PLL parts be maintained at Ban Me Thuot to provide repair parts for Ban Me Thuot and Cheo Reo. Such action has been initiated and will cause a reduction in D/L rates because of time delay in getting parts already on hand at Kontum.

f. Organization:

(1) Control Responsibilities:

(a) OBSERVATION: Pleiku TMT (Tech Control) responsibilities coincide with ICS Control Sites (EE).

(b) EVALUATION: Numerous extended outages have been absorbed by Pleiku TMT as a result of personal errors by IWCS Control Site. DCI circuits are controlled by EE but many are routed through Pleiku TMT. Extended outages of low priority circuits resulted while EE worked on higher priority circuits. The resulting RFO indicates excessive outage due to inefficiency of TMT controllers or subscribers. This is not a true representation of the situation.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: That reporting procedures and regulations be established to insure that 21st Signal Group and 1st Signal Brigade are aware of those outage delays caused by ICS Control. That 21st Sig Gp and 1st Sig Bde are informed of outages not caused by the inefficiency of TMT controllers as indicated by some RFO's.

g. Other:

(1) Shower Heaters:

(a) OBSERVATION: There is a shortage of hot water heaters for showers. A "makoshift" hot water heater was fabricated by allowing current to flow from one large conductor to another.

(b) EVALUATION: Plates should be made of stainless steel if possible.

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However, any type of sheet iron will suffice if stainless steel is not available.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: For a 55-gallon drum reservoir plates should be approximately 12-inches square and separated by about six inches. The container or reservoir should be cleaned once a day if possible. Reservoirs must be well grounded. Special warning and notice must be made not to use this method in a completely closed system.

(2) Sandbag Treatment Preventing Deterioration:

(a) OBSERVATION: A method was needed to retard deterioration of sandbags and protect them from the elements.

(b) EVALUATION: Because heavy rainfall quickly deteriorated sandbags, a method was needed to increase their longevity. Some #2 cured blacktop was heated with a blow torch and poured over the sandbags, layer by layer. The blacktop also added a camouflage effect.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: That #2 cured blacktop be utilized to treat sandbags to prevent deterioration.

5 Incl

1. Org chart 43d Sig Bn
2. Org chart Co A
3. Org chart Co C
4. Org chart 276th Sig Co
5. Org chart 586th Sig Co

Myron M. Hotsko
MYRON M. HOTSKO
LTC, SigC
Commanding
Withdrawn, HQ, DA

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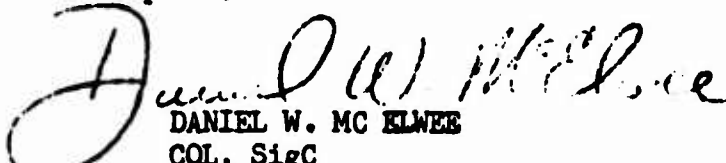
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SOCV-NG-OPT (12 Aug 68) 1st Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report of 43d Signal Battalion (SPT) for Period Ending
31 July 1968 (RCS-CSFOR-65(RI))

DA, HEADQUARTERS, 21ST SIGNAL GROUP, APO 96240 25 August 1968

TO: Commanding General, 1st Signal Brigade, ATTN: SOCV-OP, APO 96384

1. Transmitted herewith is one copy , Headquarters, 43rd Signal Battalion Report, subject as above.
2. Concur in the commanders observations and recommendations with the following comments and/or exceptions:
 - a. Reference section 1. para 1d (1) and (2): 21st Signal Group is presently experiencing an overall critical shortage in MOS 63A, 72B and 72C. Internal readjustments within Group have been made so that no one Battalion is affected by the shortage more than another. Diversions of 52B personnel to Group by 1st Signal Brigade in August, 1968 should alleviate some of the critical shortage in MOS 52A and 52B. The July 1968, Known Gain and Losses Report of the 43d Signal Battalion indicates that seven (7) personnel in 94A and 94B are on requisition for the next 90 days. Fill in these requisitions should correct the present shortages.
 - b. Reference section 1, para 1d (5): 21st Signal Group receives re-assignment instructions from personnel rotating to CONUS from 1st Signal Brigade. This data is sent immediately by message to the appropriate units. Follow-up procedures are outlined in SOCV Reg 614-220. Application of these procedures should reduce this problem.
 - c. Reference Section 1, para j. Aviation personnel and equipment are in great demand world wide. Until such time as this condition is alleviated and TOE are filled aviation support must be spread over all units of 21st Sig Gp. Although this is not the optimum in aviation support it is adequate.
 - d. Reference section 2, Para 1(c): Insure that planted explosives are identified on maps of the area and only knowledgeable people are employed in this type of operation
3. This report is considered adequate.


DANIEL W. MC ELWEE
COL, SigC
Commanding

SCCPV-OP-CR (12 Aug 68) 2nd Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 43d Signal Battalion (SPT) for Period
Ending 31 July 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

DA, HQ, 1st Signal Brigade (USASTRATCOM), APO 96384 14 September 1968

TO: Commanding General, United States Army Vietnam, ATTN: AVHGC-DST,
APO 96375

1. Subject report has been reviewed by this headquarters and is concurred in as indorsed with the following comments and/or exceptions concerning referenced paragraphs:

a. Paragraph 1e(1), p.3. Change "think" to "thick."

b. Paragraph 1e(3), p.4. Change "Operational" to "Operation."

c. Paragraphs 1j, p.9 and 2c of 1st Indorsement. The 21st Signal Group's aircraft should continue to be centralized at Nha Trang and Qui Nhon for use by all units of the 21st Signal Group. Aviation authorization has been made available to the 43d Signal Battalion but insufficient time has elapsed to permit fill on the requisition submitted. The 43d Signal Battalion is scheduled to receive three UH-1D helicopters in April 1969.

d. Paragraph 2a(1), p. 10. Concur in the need for additional clerical personnel. However, authorizations must be accomplished by a trade-off of other military spaces.

e. Paragraph 2a(2), p. 10. Nonconcur in the recommendation for the proposed MTOE for the AN/MSQ-73 since this proposal requests more men than are needed for efficient operation of an AN/MSQ-73 technical control van. This headquarters recommends that any new change of the MTOE consist of the following: one (1) Chief Tech Controller (MOS 32D40, E7), three (3) Assistant Chief Controllers (MOS 32D40, E6), six (6) Tech Controllers (MOS 32D40, E5). This MTOE would provide 1 NCOIC, 3 shift chiefs and 2 operation men per shift.

f. Paragraph 2b(1)(c), p. 11. A recheck of the ground at the An Khe Dial Telephone Exchange on 25 August 1968 revealed a 200-ohm ground. This headquarters recommended a solution to the OIC of the Dial Telephone Exchange and work is in progress to improve the ground.

g. Paragraph 2c(1), p. 12. To alleviate the shortage of Tech Controllers this headquarters has substantially increased 21st Signal Group allocations to the technical facilities controller course. In addition, two functionally trained 32Ds will be assigned to the 43d Signal Battalion upon their arrival in-country in September.

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 SUBJECT: Operational Report of 43rd Signal Battalion (SPF) for Period
 Ending 31 July 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

h. Paragraph 2c(2), p.12. The teletype circuit restoral course is intended as a refresher course on DC and circuit restoration as pertains to qualified technical controllers. As records reveal that only 50% of the personnel from the 43d Signal Battalion who attended this course met the prerequisites, it is understandable that a lack of restoration knowledge exists. Efforts are currently being made by this headquarters to secure sufficient test equipment to expand this curriculum. Until such equipment can be procured, this shortcoming will continue to exist.

i. Paragraph 2e(3), p.14. Nonconcur; six 1st Signal Brigade units (DS) are authorized to evacuate to Sacramento Army Area Depot for repair and return of the modules from the AN/SSQ-73. The direct support units selected are centrally located for the majority of the units being supported.

j. Paragraph 2e(4), p.15. Concur in that portion of the item concerning the calibration of the test equipment. The 21st Signal Group was notified on 24 August that a calibration team would be in the Fleiku area from 10 September to 10 November 1968. This headquarters does not concur in that portion of the recommendation concerning repair of test equipment since the 1st Logistical Command cannot provide an additional direct support facility in Fleiku.

k. Paragraph 2e(6), p.16. The proposed establishment of a Maintenance Shop Stock (MSS) should eliminate most of the problems with the company Prescribed Load List (PLL).

FOR THE COMMANDER:



WILLIAM G. SKINNER
 Colonel, GS
 Chief of Staff

Copy furnished:

Commanding General, United States Army Strategic Communications Command,
 ATTN: SCCOM Fort Huachuca, Arizona 85613

AVHGC-DST (12 Aug 68) 3d Ind

MAJ Klingman/ds/IBN 4433

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SUBJECT: Operational Report of 43d Signal Battalion (SPT) for Period
Ending 31 July 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96375 **24 SEP** 1968

TO: Commander in Chief, United States Army, Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-DT,
APO 96558

This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the quarterly period ending 31 July 1968 from Headquarters, 43d Signal Battalion, and concurs with the report as modified by the preceding indorsements.

FOR THE COMMANDER:



ASS. HEADQUARTERS
CENTRAL

Cy furn:
HQ 1st Sig Bde
HQ 43d Sig Bn

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GPOP-DT (12 Aug 68) 4th Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report of HQ, 43d Sig Bn (SPT) for Period Ending
31 July 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

HQ, US Army, Pacific, APO San Francisco 96558 5 OCT 1968

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the
Army, Washington, D. C. 20310

This headquarters has evaluated subject report and forwarding indorse-
ments and concurs in the report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:



C. L. SHORTT
CPT, AGC
Asst AG

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